

Asian Bush Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. X bella*
Amur, Tartarian, Morrow's, Belle's honeysuckle



Pictures By (From Top to Bottom):
J. M. Randall, T. Ransburg and
Indy Parks.

Invasive Plants are a Threat to:

- Forests and wetlands
- Native plants
- Perennial gardens
- Wildlife
- Lakes and rivers
- Human Health
- Farmland

Description:

These upright shrubs with arching branches are 6-15 feet tall. Each of these species has opposite leaves with paired berries and hollow branchlets. They stand out in the understory of forests as the first shrubs to leaf out in the spring and the last to lose their leaves in the fall. The paired, tubular flowers are white on Amur and Morrow honeysuckle, pink on Tartarian honeysuckle, and vary from white to deep rose on Belle's honeysuckle. The red to orange berries are dispersed by birds. Commonly sold cultivars include Arnold's Red, Zabelli and Rem Red.

Distribution:

These invasive bush honeysuckles generally range from the central Great Plains to southern New England and south to Tennessee and North Carolina. In Indiana they are particularly invasive in central and northern parts of the state, but are starting to move into the southern portion. Asian bush honeysuckles are relatively shade-intolerant and most often occur in forest edge, abandoned fields, roadsides and open wetlands. However, they will move into forest understories and dominate wherever there has been disturbance.

Problem:

Asian bush honeysuckles grow so densely they shade out everything on the forest floor, often leaving nothing but bare soil. This means a great reduction in the food and cover available for birds and other animals. Serious infestations can inhibit tree regeneration, essentially stopping forest succession. Higher rates of nest predation have been found in Amur honeysuckle than in native shrubs due to nests being more exposed to predators. Some bush honeysuckle species also release chemicals into the soil to inhibit other plant growth, effectively poisoning the soil.

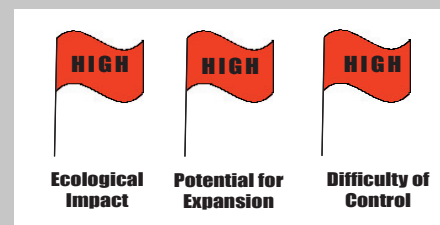
Origin:

The Asian bush honeysuckles originate in Eurasia (Japan, China, Korea, Manchuria, Turkey and southern Russia). They were introduced as ornamentals, for wildlife cover and for soil erosion control. However, their aggressive domination of native communities make them a bad choice for these purposes. See back for alternative species.



Picture By: J. H. Miller.

IPSAWG Ranking:



IPSAWG Recommendation:

- Do not buy, sell or plant Asian bush honeysuckle in Indiana
- Help by eradicating Asian bush honeysuckle on your property.

This ranking illustrates the results of an assessment conducted by the **Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG)**, which is made up of many organizations and agencies concerned about invasive plant species. IPSAWG's goal is to assess which plant species may threaten natural areas in Indiana and develop recommendations for their use in the state.

For more information about IPSAWG and the assessment tool used to rank invasive species, visit their website:

www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

ALTERNATIVES to Asian bush honeysuckles:



Dogwoods
(*Cornus sericea*,
C. amomum, and
C. racemosa)



Chokeberry
(*Aronia melanocarpa*)



Winterberry
(*Ilex verticillata*)



Northern arrowwood
(*Viburnum dentatum*)

Pictures By (Top to Bottom): D. E. Herman, U Conn, Indy Parks and D. E. Herman.

Other Alternatives:

Blackhaw
(*Viburnum prunifolium*)
Serviceberry
(*Amelanchier arborea*)

Control Methods:

Mechanical and chemical methods are the primary means of control of Asian bush honeysuckles. No biological control agents are currently available for these plants. Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be useful for light infestations, but care should be taken not to disturb the soil any more than necessary.

Asian bush honeysuckles can also be controlled by application of a systemic herbicide, like glyphosate (e.g. Roundup), at a 1% solution, sprayed onto the foliage or applied by sponge. This should be done in fall when native species are dormant and bush honeysuckle is still green. Well-established stands of Asian bush

honeysuckles are probably best managed by cutting the stems to ground level and painting or spraying the stumps with a 20-30% solution of glyphosate or 8% solution of triclopyr (e.g. Ortho Brush B-Gon concentrate). **Always read and follow pesticide label directions.**



Dark green dense thicket of Asian bush honeysuckle under the forest canopy. (Picture By: Indy Parks)

Eight Easy Ways to Combat Invasive Plants

You can **help stop** the spread of **invasive plants** by following these **8 easy guidelines**:

1. Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Request that nurseries and garden centers sell only non-invasive plants.
2. Seek information on invasive plants. Sources include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies.
3. Scout your property

- for invasive species, and remove invasives before they become a problem. If plants can't be removed, at least prevent them from going to seed.
4. Clean your boots before and after visiting a natural area to prevent the spread of invasive plant seeds.
5. Don't release aquarium plants into the wild.
6. Volunteer at local parks

- and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
7. Help educate your community through personal contacts and in such settings as garden clubs and civic groups.
8. Support public policies and programs to control invasive plants.

For More Information:

On this assessment and IPSAWG:

IPSAWG
www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

On identification and control techniques:

The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Weeds
www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

On native plant alternatives and sources:

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society
www.inpaws.org